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THIS ISSUE:
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CASTLE VAN KLEISS...
BOSS DIDN'T WANT TO PLAY?
HE SAID HE WANTED TO GO FOR A STROLL.
HE SHOULDN'T WALK THE WASTED LANDS OF ABYSUS WITHOUT THE PACK TO GUARD HIM.
"I'LL BET THERE ARE EVOS OUT THERE EVEN VAN KLEISS SHOULD AVOID..."
HEART OF STONE
SCOTT BEATTY--WRITER
MIN S. KU--ARTIST
DAVID RODRIGUEZ--COLORIST
TRAVIS LANHAM--LETTERER
MICHAEL MCCALISTER--ASST. EDITOR
SCOTT PETERSON--EDITOR

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.
THERE ARE NO INSECTS--THE OLD KIND--IN *ABYSUS* TO POLLINATE.

WHAT'S THIS?
A CURIOUS MUTATION...

REEEK
BUT LIKE ALL THE CREATURES IN ABYSUS, JUST ONE MORE LINK IN AN EXPONENTIALLY VARIEGATED FOOD CHAIN THAT ENDS--

--WITH *ME.*

WITH *YOU,* IT'S BACK TO THE RUINED SOIL.
THIS COULD BE A *PARADISE.*

EDEN.
DR. EDEN WILLIAMS.
WOW, SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.
SHE'S A SCIENTIST. AN EVOLUTIONARY MUTOLOGIST.
THUS, EVOS ARE HER SPECIALTY.
AND SHE DISAPPEARED TWO WEEKS AGO ON AN UNAUTHORIZED EXCURSION INSIDE ABYSUS.
LUCKY US.
WELL, SHE SHOULD BE EASY TO FIND.
BLONDE. BEAUTIFUL. BRAINS.
YEAH, THAT'LL MAKE A FINE MIX IF SHE DIDN'T TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST NANITE EXPOSURE.
BRAINS SHIFTED TO THE OUTSIDE, BEAUTY FOLDED INSIDE--
BLECH!

YES, I KNOW...
...I AM AS THE NANITES REMADE ME.
YOU...
YOU'RE...
...YOU'RE RAVISHING.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD COME CLOSER SO I MIGHT GET A BETTER LOOK.
DON'T BE FRESH.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN OFFER ME FLOWERS, VAN KLEIGS.
EVEN ONE OF THOSE NASTY OMNIVOROUS LOTUSES.
YOU KNOW MY NAME?
OF COURSE I DO...
...I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN.

INTELLECTUALLY SPEAKING, OF COURSE.
GENIUS TO GENIUS.
I'VE READ YOUR FILE. I KNOW YOUR "WORK."
I CAME ALL THIS WAY TO MEET YOU.
"PROVIDENCE DENIED MY RESEARCH PROPOSAL TO STUDY THE NANITE INFUSION ON THE GROUND HERE IN ABYSUS.
"SO I MOUNTED MY OWN EXPEDITION.
"I EVEN TOOK ALL THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.
"OR SO I THOUGHT."

"IN HINDSIGHT, I SUPPOSE I COULD HAVE WORN *BETTER* PROTECTION.
"BUT IN MY HEART I KNEW THAT MY STUDY OF EVOS WOULD NEVER BE *COMPLETE*--
"--UNTIL I EXPERIENCED NANITE INFUSION *FIRSTHAND.*
"WHO KNEW THE MUTATION PROCESS WOULD BE SO *PAINFUL*--"
--YET SO *EXHILARATING?*

YES... WHO KNEW--
GET YOUR TARNISHED METAL MITT OFF HER, VAN KLEISS!
SORRY, DOCTOR WILLIAMS!
IT TOOK US A BIT TO TRACK YOU DOWN!
GUH!
TAKE CARE OF THE DOC, REX!
I'LL BLAST VAN KLEISS ALL THE WAY BACK TO HIS CREEPY CASTLE!
DON'T WORRY, DOCTOR. I'M PRETTY SURE I CAN REVERSE THE INFUSION.
REVERSE IT?
HEY!
WHY WOULD I WANT TO BE ANY LESS THAN AN EVO?

YOU MEN.
ALWAYS ASSUMING THAT A FAIR LADY *NEEDS* TO BE SAVED.
QUITE THE CONTRARY--
REX IS JUST *JEALOUS*.
OR IS IT *NANITE ENVY*?
I BELIEVE WE HAVE REX AND HIS SIMIAN FRIEND ON THE *ROPES*, MY DEAR EDEN...
IT'S A MADHOUSE!
A MADHOUSE!
SO. WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THEM?
VIVISECTION?
WE COULD TAKE REX APART AND *COUNT* HIS NANITES.
DOC... *EDEN*-- LISTEN TO ME.
WHEN I SAID I COULD REVERSE YOUR EVO MUTATION, I *MEANT* IT.
I JUST NEED TO BE CLOSE ENOUGH TO *TOUCH* YOU.
NO...

PLEASE NO NO NO!
EDEN, YOU SILLY TWIT!
WATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
TWO'S COMPANY--
--AND THREE'S A CROWD, VAN KLEISS!
COME ON, REX! LET'S LEAVE THESE NASTY LOVEBIRDS TO HENPECK EACH OTHER!
UH-UH, BOBO...
I DON'T THINK THE DOCTOR'S THINKING CLEARLY SINCE HER EXTREME MAKEOVER.
OH, BUT I AM.
WITH OUR ABILITIES COMBINED, I THINK QUITE CLEARLY THAT VAN KLEISS AND I COULD DEFEAT YOU AND YOUR MONKEY, REX.
NO TRUER WORDS WERE EVER SPOKEN, EDEN...
...YOU COMPLETE ME.
OH MY...
VAN KLEISS, NO!

I THINK WE'RE DONE HERE, REX.
SOME PRIVACY, IF YOU WOULD?
COME ON, BOBO...
GOOD IDEA, REX.
LET'S BOOGIE BEFORE HE USES HER NANITE INFUSION ON US!
I...I JUST DON'T GET IT--
--IT SEEMED LIKE THEY WERE IN LOVE OR SOMETHING.
YEAH...
OR SOMETHING.
THE END?

SEVENSEVEN? YOU'RE THE FOURTH BOUNTY HUNTER THIS WEEK!
WHY ARE YOU ALL HERE ON EARTH? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING, HUH? THAT'S COOL.
THIS CONVERSATION WAS OVER ANYWAYS.
THE MONSTER AT THE END OF THIS BOOK
EUGENE SON · writer MIN-S. KU · artist
DAVID RODRIGUEZ · colorist TRAVIS LANHAM · letterer
MICHAEL MCCALISTER · asst. editor SCOTT PETERSON · editor
THAT WAS FUN.
A WASTE OF TIME, BUT FUN.

GOTTA GET HOME AND READ THIS BOOK BEFORE THE BIG ENGLISH TEST ON MONDAY.
AND I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED IT YET.
IF I CAN JUST CONCENTRATE AND NOT GET DISTRACTED, I SHOULD GET IT DONE BY--
WHOA!
OR MAYBE NOT?
THE FAMOUS BEN TENNYSON!
HOW FORTUITOUS! I AM IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE!
MY SHIP SEEMS TO BE HAVING ENGINE PROBLEMS.
I'M REALLY BUSY RIGHT NOW...
...BUT IF IT WON'T TAKE LONG, I GUESS I CAN HELP.
GONNA GO IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK.
NANOMECH!

HAVE YOU FOUND THE PROBLEM? DO YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL?
I'M INSIDE A TINY ALIEN SPACESHIP ENGINE. EVERYTHING LOOKS UNUSUAL.
THIS CABLE SEEMS A LITTLE LOOSE.
YOU DID IT!
OH, MAN-- THAT TOOK FOREVER.
I GOTTA GET HOME AND START READING.
I CAN STAY UP LATE AND GET A FEW CHAPTERS IN BEFORE--
HUH?
WHO ARE YOU? AND WHY ARE YOU IN MY LIVING ROOM?
WE APOLOGIZE FOR DROPPING IN UNANNOUNCED, BEN TENNYSON.
BUT THE PLANET LEWODA IS ON THE VERGE OF CIVIL WAR. YOUR WISDOM IS NEEDED TO STOP THIS CATASTROPHE AND SAVE OUR PEOPLE FROM CERTAIN DOOM!
IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE.
AN AGONIZINGLY LONG TIME LATER...
(A LOT LONGER THAN A MINUTE)
THEN IT'S SETTLED. ONE SIDE WILL APOLOGIZE AND THE OTHER SIDE WILL REMEMBER TO PICK UP AFTER THEIR PETS.
THANK YOU, BEN TENNYSON.
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT? IT'S MORNING ALREADY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. EVERY TIME I TRY TO READ THIS BOOK, SOMETHING NEW HAPPENS THAT NEEDS MY ATTENTION.
MAYBE I WAS NEVER MEANT TO READ THIS BOOK.
NO, WAIT. I *HAVE* TO READ THIS BOOK. OR ELSE I'M GOING TO FAIL ENGLISH.
I SHOULD FIND SOME PEACE AND QUIET AT THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.
KRA-BOOM
GREAT.
KRAAB?
TENNYSON! THIS IS A SURPRISE! I'M HUNTING BIGGER GAME THAN YOU--BUT I CAN'T PASS UP A CHANCE TO MAKE YOU MY PREY!
LET THE HUNT BEGIN!
ANOTHER INTERGALACTIC BOUNTY HUNTER.
NONE HAVE BEEN AFTER ME, SO I'M GUESSING THEY'RE HERE AFTER SOMETHING ELSE.

YOU GUESS CORRECTLY! THERE'S A BOUNTY OUT THAT MAKES IT WORTH MY WHILE TO COME TO EARTH. BUT THAT'S ALL YOU GET OUT OF ME!
THAT'S ALL YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME? TRY TELLING MORE TO...
FWOOSHSHSHH!!
YOU MAY HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO--
BUT I'VE GOT AN ENGLISH TEST ON MONDAY!
AND I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED READING THE BOOK YET!
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE A LOT OF READING TO DO.
AND NOTHING IS GOING TO STAND IN MY WAY!

C'MON, KEVIN! YOU COULDN'T FIND *ANYBODY* ELSE TO HELP YOU MOVE A PIANO?
ONE, IT'S NOT A PIANO. IT'S A HANDCRAFTED ALLERODIAN SYMBOLCHORD AND IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE. TWO, I HELPED YOU WHEN YOU NEEDED TO MOVE THAT DESK OUT OF YOUR HOUSE.
AND FOR YOUR INFORMATION, NO, I COULDN'T FIND ANYBODY ELSE.
BUT, JULIE, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
HEY, YOU PROMISED TO BE MY DATE FOR THE VARSITY TENNIS BANQUET. I PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR MONTHS AGO.
BUT... BUT...
PLEASE, GWEN!
GRANDPA'S BIRTHDAY WAS LAST WEEK. NO MORE PROCRASTINATING. WE HAVE TO FIND HIM A PRESENT.
AND IF YOU SEE ONE? A BELATED BIRTHDAY CARD.
ARGH! THAT DOES IT! I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
SOMEWHERE I CAN READ THIS BOOK! SOMEWHERE WHERE NO ONE CAN FIND ME!

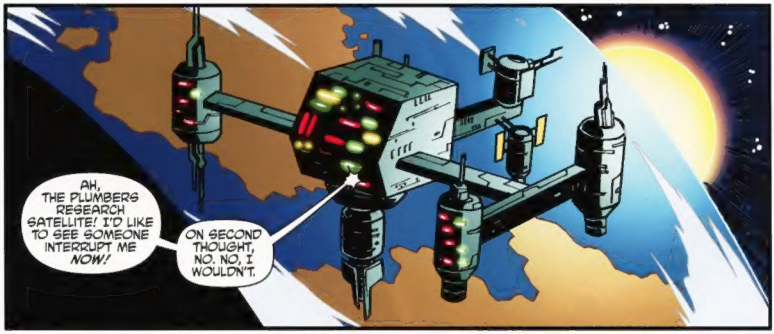
FINALLY!
NO ONE AROUND FOR MILES.
THE PERFECT PLACE TO GET AWAY.
CHAPTER ONE.
...GREAT. SOMETHING'S BLOCKING MY LIGHT.
SOMETHING... BIG!

I'VE GOT SOMETHING BIG, TOO!
HUMUNGOUSAUR!
WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING ME? WHAT DID I DO?
OH, OF COURSE! YOU'RE THE REASON ALL THOSE INTERGALACTIC BOUNTY HUNTERS ARE HERE! THEY'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!
OOF! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SURRENDER AND JUST GIVE UP PEACEFULLY, ARE YOU.
IN ABOUT A SECOND? YOU'RE GOING TO WISH YOU HAD.
ULTIMATE HUMUNGOUSAUR!
NOW LISTEN UP! BECAUSE I'M ONLY GOING TO SAY THIS ONE. LAST. TIME!

I HAVE A BOOK TO READ!!!

HE'LL HAVE A KILLER HEADACHE WHEN HE WAKES UP. PLUMBERS SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE TO TAKE HIM OFF PLANET.
BRR-RRING
JEEZ... WHAT NOW?

BEN, IT'S MOM. I NEED YOU TO PICK SOMETHING UP FOR ME AT THE--
NO, MOM! I'M SORRY! I CAN'T! NO! NO! NO NO NO!
JUST NO!
WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?


AH, THE PLUMBERS RESEARCH SATELLITE! I'D LIKE TO SEE SOMEONE INTERRUPT ME *NOW!*
ON SECOND THOUGHT, NO, NO, I WOULDN'T.

A COMFY CHAIR. A LITTLE PEACE AND QUIET. AND A GOOD BOOK.
AT LEAST I *HOPE* THIS BOOK IS GOOD.

YOU KNOW WHAT? AT THIS POINT, I DON'T EVEN CARE IF THE BOOK IS GOOD OR NOT. I JUST WANT TO BE ABLE TO READ IT.
CHAPTER ONE!
FOR BEN, THE BEGINNING. FOR US, THE END.

JOHNNY DC's

DC IN DEMAND!

GET COZY WITH SOME COCOA AND YOUR FAVORITE COMICS!

CARTOON NETWORK ACTION PACK #54
What happens when Van Kleiss meets a beautiful EVO who is every bit his intellectual match?

LOONEY TUNES #192
Instead of making a wrong turn at Albuquerque, Bugs decides to visit for once!

ALL NEW BATMAN: BRAVE & THE BOLD #1
Superman and Batman shrink down to super-small size to unravel the super-big mystery!

TINY TITANS/ LITTLE ARCHIE #2
Josie and the Pussycats get an invitation to join the pets! Will Archie's favorite band survive the experience?

SCOOBY-DOO, WHERE ARE YOU? #3
The gang gets the heebie-jeebies when their radio waves catch a program airing on what can only be a spooky station from beyond the grave!

TINY TITANS #34
Did you ever wonder why Superboy and Zatara look the same? What would happen if they switched costumes? Would anyone notice? We have to know!

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